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ABSTRACT

Findings of a follow-up study that examined the experiences of 1991 high school graduates of the Center for the Arts and Sciences (CAS) program in Saginaw, Michigan, are presented in this paper. A survey mailed to 33 graduates received 16 responses. Findings indicate that all respondents were enrolled in a school, college, or training program. The two personal problems of greatest concern included self-imposed pressure to succeed and anxiety about meeting others' expectations for success. Their most serious educational problem was financial. The perceived strengths of the CAS program included its creative environment, interested teachers, and advanced, specialized curriculum. Students recommended increased cross-program involvement and more liberal student rules. Two tables are included. Appendices contain a copy of the questionnaire, cover letters, and survey responses. (LMI)

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ED349687

EVALUATION REPORT

THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES

FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF 1991 GRADUATES

DEPARTMENT OF EVALUATION SERVICES

- PROVIDING ASSESSMENT, PROGRAM EVALUATION AND RESEARCH SERVICES -

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EA 024 301

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THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES

FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF 1991 GRADUATES

An Approved Report of the

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

Department of Evaluation, Testing and Research

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Dr. Foster B. Gibbs, Superintendent
School District of the City of Saginaw

June, 1992

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
INTRODUCTION		1
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA		2
FINDINGS		6
Highlights		6
SUMMARY		10
APPENDICES		12
Appendix A:	Follow-Up Study of 1991 Graduates from the Center for the Arts and Sciences (CAS) Questionnaire and Cover Letter	13
Appendix B:	Cover Letter of Second Mailing	21
Appendix C:	Follow-Up Study of 1991 Graduates from the Center for the Arts and Sciences (CAS) Questionnaire Responses	22

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Comparison of the 1991 CAS Graduate Population with the 1991 CAS Graduates Returning a Follow-Up Questionnaire, by Ethnic Background, Gender, and Total	2
2	Comparison of the 1991 CAS Graduate Population with the 1991 CAS Graduates Returning a Follow-Up Questionnaire by Exiting Program, Semesters of Participation in Exiting Program, Semester of Participation in CAS, and Total	4

INTRODUCTION

In June, 1991, 33 students finished their program at the Center for the Arts and Science (CAS) and were graduated as seniors by their home high schools. To determine what they have been doing nine months since graduation the Department of Evaluation Services in conjunction with the CAS program director revised the 1988 graduate follow-up questionnaire of 42 items to a 36 item instrument (see Appendix A for a copy of the instrument and cover letter used) which was mailed to each graduate on March 12, 1992. A second mailing to non-responding graduates was sent out on April 3, 1992, along with another questionnaire (see Appendix B for the cover letter of the second mailing). The questionnaire directed respondents to identify their educational and/or employment status, specify the perceived problems they encountered either in the work force or post high school education, describe their present schooling, detail their experiences with mentor(s), evaluate their CAS experience, and describe their present accomplishments and their goals for the future. Those findings are contained in Appendix C and represent all the responses received by May 27, 1992.

The results of this study should provide administrators, teachers, and counselors with data to further assist them in instructional and curricular planning to better meet the needs of secondary gifted and talented students. However, individual responses from the graduates may reflect on their experiences in the CAS program, their home high school, or a combination of these two educational experiences. Thus the responses to questions must be understood within the context of the multiple educational experiences of each graduate.

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DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The 1991 CAS follow-up survey was mailed to 33 graduates (18 from Arthur Hill; three from Valley Lutheran; two from Saginaw High, Chesaning High, Heritage High, and one from Amazing Grace Christian Academy, Bridgeport High, Hemlock High, Garber High, Swan Valley, and Western High). Sixteen questionnaires (47.0%) were returned.

Table 1 below contains a breakdown by ethnic background and sex of those returning the follow-up questionnaire and the CAS 1991 graduating class.

TABLE 1. COMPARISON OF THE 1991 CAS GRADUATE POPULATION WITH THE 1991 CAS GRADUATES RETURNING A FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRE, BY ETHNIC BACKGROUND, GENDER, AND TOTAL.

Ethnic Background and Gender	1991 CAS Graduates Returning Follow-Up Questionnaires			Population of 1991 CAS Graduating Class	
	Number	Percent of Respondents	Percent of Graduates	Number	Percent
TOTAL	14	100.0	42.4	33	100.0
ETHNIC BACKGROUND					
White	11	78.6	40.7	27	[illegible].8
Black	2	14.3	7.4	5	15.2
Spanish-American	1	7.1	3.7	1	3.0
American Indian	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
Oriental	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
GENDER					
Female	10	71.4	45.4	22	66.7
Male	4	28.6	36.3	11	33.3

A review of the ethnic background of the respondents in Table 1 above shows that 11 (42.4%) were White, 2 (14.3%) were Black, and 1 (7.1%) were Spanish-American in terms of ethnic background. The graduating class was made up of 27 (81.8%) White, 5 (15.2%) Black, and 1 (3.0%) Spanish-American. As can be seen the percent of White graduates responding was approximately the same as their representation in the entire class (78.6% and 81.8% respectively) while the one Spanish-American was over represented (7.1% and 3.0% respectively) and the two Blacks showed approximately equal representation of the original class (14.3% and 15.2% respectively).

The responding graduates were 71.4% female and 28.6% male. The graduating class was made up of 22 (66.7%) females and 11 (33.3%) males. Thus males and females were as proportionately represented in the respondent group as they were in the graduating class.

Table 2 below contains a breakdown by exiting course of study, semesters of participation in exiting course of study, and semesters of participation in the CAS program of those graduates returning the questionnaire and the entire CAS 1991 graduating class.

TABLE 2. COMPARISON OF THE 1991 CAS GRADUATE POPULATION WITH THE 1991 CAS GRADUATES RETURNING A FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRE BY EXITING PROGRAM, SEMESTERS OF PARTICIPATION IN EXITING PROGRAM, SEMESTER OF PARTICIPATION IN CAS, AND TOTAL.

Program and Semesters of Participation	1991 CAS Graduates Returning Follow-Up Questionnaires			Population of 1991 CAS Graduating Class	
	Number	Percent of Respondents	Percent of Graduates	Number	Percent
TOTAL	14	100.0*	42.4	33	100.0
COURSE OF STUDY					
Visual Arts	5	35.7	55.6	9	27.3
Theatre	3	21.4	37.5	8	24.2
Voice/Keyboard	0	0.0	0.0	3	9.1
Instrumental Music	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
Math/Science	3	21.4	75.0	4	12.1
Dance	2	14.3	28.6	7	21.2
Language Arts	1	7.1	14.3	2	6.1
Global Studies	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
SEMESTERS OF PARTICIPATION IN EXITING COURSE OF STUDY					
1	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
2	3	21.4	42.8	7	21.2
3	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
4	2	14.3	40.0	5	15.3
5	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
6	2	14.3	66.7	3	9.1
8	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
9	1	7.1	100.0	1	3.0
10	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
11	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
11.5	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
12	6	42.8	54.5	11	33.4
SEMESTERS OF PARTICIPATION IN CAS					
1	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
2	2	14.3	50.0	4	12.2
3	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
4	2	14.3	50.0	4	12.2
5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
6	2	14.3	66.7	3	9.1
8	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
9	1	7.1	50.0	2	6.1
10	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
11	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
11.5	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.0
12	7	50.0	50.0	14	42.4

*Course of study and semesters of participation in existing course of study total to 99.9% due to rounding.

A perusal of the course of study of the respondents in Table 2 above shows that all exiting study areas had less than 50.0% of the responding graduates except for visual arts (55.6%) and math/science (75.0%). A review of the semesters of participation in both the exiting study areas and the entire CAS programs shows that they ranged from three to 12 semesters. Participation in both the entire program and exiting areas shows a sampling of respondents who were short, moderate, and long-term in their lengths of participation.

FINDINGS

The reader is again reminded that the complete findings to each survey question are given in Appendix C.

Highlights

A review of the responses given by the CAS graduates reveals the following:

- All 14 CAS graduates (100.0%) are in schools, colleges, or training programs either full- or part-time since graduation.
- A total of 9 (71.4%) attended Michigan schools and four (28.6%) attended out-of-state schools and training programs.
- Most CAS graduates are pursuing as their major field of study: 1) fine arts and letters (21.4%), 2) engineering and architecture (21.4%), 3) commercial arts and communications (21.4%), 4) business (14.3%), 5) law and government (7.1%), 6) medicine and health services (7.1%), and 7) science and agriculture (7.1%).
- A majority of the respondents (71.4%) plan to pursue additional degrees after they complete their present degree program.
- A little more than a third of the respondents (35.7%) had no single serious educational problem since graduation. The remainder of the respondents mentioned the following:
  - Money problems (42.9%),
  - Lacked necessary educational skills (7.1%),
  - Putting too much pressure on myself to succeed (7.1%), and
  - Unsure if I want to pursue my major or change it (7.1%).
- Of the graduates who are working (28.6%), 75.0% are employed in the same general area they planned while in the CAS program. This match of employment and interest is exceptional but this occurred with three of the four graduates.

- The single most serious personal problem that the (14) graduates have met since graduation included:

  - I impose too much pressure on myself to succeed (28.6%),
  - I am worried that I will not be as successful as people want me to be (21.4%),
  - Can't find a job to help pay for school/financial obligations (14.3%),
  - Not worried (14.3%),
  - Unable to find any friends or companions who stimulate me intellectually (7.1%),
  - Handling stress (7.1%), and
  - Lymes disease (7.1%).

- During the CAS program most respondents (56.3%) were involved in some (3 or 4) activities followed by:

  - Involved in a large (5 or more) number of activities (35.7%) and
  - Involved in basically 1 or 2 activities (21.4%).

- Present involvement of respondents in social service, professional, or civic activities has decreased since graduation with 50.0% reporting involvement in a few (1 or 2) activities followed by:

  - Involved in a fair amount (over 2) activities (21.4%),
  - Not involved in any activities (21.4%), and
  - Involved in many activities (7.1%).

- Over nine-tenths of the respondents (92.9%) had a mentor while they were in the CAS program.

- The number of mentors while they were in the CAS program varied as follows:

  - One (38.4%),
  - Two (23.1%),
  - Three (30.8%), and
  - Four (7.7%).

- A total of 70.6% of the respondents indicated their mentor was a teacher; 11.8% indicated a student who was in the program during the same time; and 5.9% each a student who was in the program before me, counselor, and a CAS building administrator.

- A large majority of the respondents (76.9%) reported they still communicate with their mentor(s).

- Three respondents each reported the following strengths of the CAS program:

  - Provides a concentrated environment in which students can expand their specialized talents/ encourages creativity,
  - Materials and everything needed was available at your fingertips/hands on experiences,
  - Teachers were more interested in their students and teaching than teachers who see their profession as "just a job",
  - Advanced courses of study/specialized areas of of study, and
  - The "National Issues Journals/Forum" were very educational and informative.

- Two or more respondents offered the following ways the CAS program could be improved:

  - Have different classes interact with each other;
  - Administrators treated students like children rather than giving them the respect they deserve for being accepted to a gifted program (hall pass policy, eating and drinking in class, etc.);
  - Better equipment to allow for more hands on experence with tools being used in your field of study;
  - Harder admission standards;
  - Administrators were too harsh with punishment;
  - Advertise better to smaller country schools (Merrill, Hemlock, etc.) to let more people know about the program;
  - Bring more interesting topics to the living arts program; and
  - Get more students input to help choose and schedule living arts programs and guest speakers.

- Professional goals ten years in the future for the CAS graduates included the following:

  - A famous fashion photographer in New York;
  - Research and development for a company involved in genetic engineering, having achieved at least a masters degree if not a doctorate in genetics;
  - Plan to be a budget director for either a large corporation or private university and I also plan to have my MBA or be a CEO someday;
  - Electrical engineer;
  - Plan to be running my own professional dance company as well as a teacher and choreographer or touring all over the country;
  - Practicing law and teaching ballroom dance;
  - Either be an architect with a building company or a light designer with a musical group;

- Either acting or designing professionally for a threatre;
- Working as an advertising or commerical illustrator/ designer;
- Plan on definitely having my bachelor's degree in nursing as well as my master's degree and being well situated on a hospital staff here or somewhere else like Lansing treating sick children and infants;
- Plan on being in broadcasting or public relations;
- Professional illustrator in a corporation firm or free-lance illustrator/writer;
- Involved in research and design; and
- Don't know.

SUMMARY

The most significant results of the follow-up study of Saginaw's 1991 Center for the Arts and Sciences (CAS) students who graduated as seniors from their home high school have been presented. Data after eight months of leaving school relative to the CAS graduates' post-high school education and employment, perceptions of post-high school problems, levels of off-the-job activity, levels of involvement with high school mentors, and evaluations of their CAS experience were sought.

From the survey data there emerged some important points. They included:

1. Of the 14 respondents:

   - All were in school, college, or training programs full- or part-time,
   - 26.8% were employed in some way to help themselves through school, and
   - 71.4% plan on pursuing additional degrees after the completion of their present program.

2. Seven general areas of study summarize their current areas of emphasis. They included:

   - Commercial arts and communications (21.4%),
   - Fine arts/letters (21.4%),
   - Engineering/architecture (21.4%),
   - Business (14.3%),
   - Science and agriculture (7.1%),
   - Medicine and health services (7.1%) and
   - Law and government (7.1%).

3. Two personal problems were mentioned as most serious. They were:

   - Impose too much pressure on myself to succeed (28.6%) and
   - Worried about being as successful as others want me to be (21.4%).

4. The single most serious educational problem mentioned was "money problems" by 42.9% of the respondents.

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5. Off-the-job activities of CAS graduates have decreased since their high school days. Their report of this activity presently included:

   - 50.0% with a few (1 or 2),
   - 21.4% with a fair amount (over 2),
   - 21.4% with no activities, and
   - 7.1% with many activities.

6. Over nine of ten of the graduates (92.9%) had one or more mentors while in the CAS program and 70.9% of these graduates have kept in contact with these mentors.

7. Most respondents agreed that the CAS program had the following strengths:

   - Better environment to expand specialized talents/ encourage creativity,
   - Teachers more interested in academic and personal lives than home school teachers,
   - Advanced/specialized courses of study, and
   - The "National Issues Journals/Forum" were very educational/informative.

8. Two major ways to improve the CAS program were:

   - Allow more opportunities for cross program involvement, and
   - Be more liberal in student rules.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

550 Millard Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48607
(517) 759-2200
FAX: (517) 759-2315

Foster B. Gibbs, Ph.D., Superintendent

March 12, 1992

Dear 1991 CAS Graduate:

Don't worry, we aren't selling encyclopedias or asking for a donation. All we want is a few minutes of your time to fill in a questionnaire about your experiences after high school.

You are not alone in this venture. The Department of Evaluation Services of the Saginaw Public Schools is sending this Follow-Up Questionnaire to the entire 1991 graduating class of the Center for the Arts and Science (CAS). We are trying to learn about the Class of 1991 and how former students feel about their school education. This information will help us improve Saginaw's gifted and talented educational programs. Your individual responses will be kept confidential and will be summarized along with those of other Saginaw CAS graduates.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us as soon as possible. We have even provided a pre-addressed, stamped envelope for your convenience. What could be easier?

Your cooperation is appreciated. Best of luck to you in the future.

Sincerely,

Foster B. Gibbs, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Enclosures

Board of Education
Thomas S. Tilot, President Michael L. Kiefer, Vice-President James W. Woolfolk, Secretary Richard J. Stringer, Treasurer
Ruth A. Braun, Trustee Ruben Daniels, Trustee, Willie E. Thompson, Trustee

APPENDIX A

School District of the City of Saginaw, Michigan
Department of Evaluation Services
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A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF 1991 GRADUATES FROM THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES (CAS)

DIRECTIONS: For multiple-choice questions, read each question carefully and then check the number to the left of the response that best describes your answer. For questions requiring a written response, read the question carefully and then print your answer on the line provided.

1. Which of the following categories best describes what you **primarily** are doing now? (Check one)

____ 1. In school, college, or a training program full-time
____ 2. In school, college, or a training program part-time
____ 3. Employed, full-time (30 or more hours per week)
____ 4. Employed, part-time (less than 30 hours per week)
____ 5. In the military service
____ 6. Unemployed, seeking employment
____ 7. Unemployed, not seeking employment
____ 8. Laid off
____ 9. Homemaker
____ 10. Other: (Please specify) _____

2. If you are currently attending a school, university, or college please list the name of that institution and any others you have attended plus your major and minor at each one: (If you are **undecided** use **UN** to indicate **undecided** for major and/or for minor):

	Name of Institution	Major	Minor
Current:			
Previous: 1.			
2.			
3.			

3. If you are not attending a school, university, or college now but you have attended since graduation, what is the name of the institution(s)?

	Name of Institution	Major	Minor
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

4. If you are currently attending a school, university, or college that awards a degree, towards what degree are you working? (Check one)

___ 1. Associate of Arts (A.A.)
___ 2. Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
___ 3. Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
___ 4. Other: (Please specify) _____

5. What major field of study are you pursuing? (Check one)

___ 1. Business
___ 2. Commercial Arts and Communication
___ 3. Construction, Industrial, and Skill Trades
___ 4. Education
___ 5. Engineering and Architecture
___ 6. Fine Arts and Letters
___ 7. Law and Government
___ 8. Medicine and Health Services
___ 9. Science and Agriculture
___ 10. Social Services
___ 11. Transportation
___ 12. Other: (Please specify) _____

6. If you have identified a field of study, how long have you been studying in this area? (Check one)

___ 1. Less than one year
___ 2. One to two years
___ 3. Two to three years
___ 4. Other: (Please specify) _____

7. Do you plan to pursue an additional degree after you complete your present program? (Check one)

___ 1. Yes
___ 2. No (Please skip questions eight and nine)
___ 3. I don't know at this time. (Please skip questions eight and nine)

8. If you checked yes to question 7, what degree do you <u>ultimately</u> wish to attain? (Check one)

___ 1. Bachelor of Arts of Science (B.A. or B.S.)
___ 2. Master of Arts or Science (M.A. or M.S.)
___ 3. Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)
___ 4. Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
___ 5. Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)
___ 6. Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.)
___ 7. Juris Doctor (J.D.)
___ 8. Doctor of Philosophy or Education Doctor (Ph.D. or Ed.D.)
___ 9. Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)
___ 10. Other: (Please specify) _____

9. If you checked yes to question 7, what major area of study will you pursue? (Please specify)

_____

If you are attending a training program or pursuing additional education from an institution that does not issue a degree please answer questions 10-13, otherwise go to question 14.

10. What is your area of study? (Please specify)

_____

11. How long have you been in this program?

_____

12. Do you plan on entering a university or college after this program? (Check one)

____ 1. Yes
____ 2. No (Please skip question 13)
____ 3. I don't know at this time (Please skip question 13)

13. If you answered yes to question 12, what major area of study will you pursue? (Please specify)

_____

14. What type of job would you like to secure when you finish studying and/or graduate? (Check one)

____ 1. Caring for people or animals
____ 2. Musical and entertainment activities
____ 3. Artistic work
____ 4. Communications work
____ 5. Promotional activities
____ 6. Number work
____ 7. Inspecting and measuring
____ 8. Clerical work
____ 9. Manual work
____ 10. Machine work
____ 11. Craftsmanship
____ 12. Skilled operation, repair, or installation of precision equipment
____ 13. Serving personal needs of people
____ 14. Providing skilled services for people
____ 15. Waiting on customers
____ 16. Selling and merchandising work
____ 17. Managerial work
____ 18. Teaching

15. If you are currently employed, are you in the same general area you planned while in the CAS program? (Check one)

____ 1. Yes ... If yes, answer questions 16, 17, and 18
____ 2. No ... If no, please skip questions 16, 17, and 18

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16. Are you employed currently full-time (30 or more hours per week) and/or part-time (less than 30 hours per week)? (Check one)

___ 1. Full-time
___ 2. Part-time
___ 3. Both Full- and Part-time

17. If you are currently employed, what is your current job category? (Check one)

___ 1. Caring for people or animals
___ 2. Musical and entertainment activities
___ 3. Artistic work
___ 4. Communications work
___ 5. Promotional activities
___ 6. Number work
___ 7. Inspecting and measuring
___ 8. Clerical work
___ 9. Manual work
___ 10. Machine work
___ 11. Craftsmanship
___ 12. Skilled operation, repair, or installation of precision equipment
___ 13. Serving personal needs of people
___ 14. Providing skilled services for people
___ 15. Waiting on customers
___ 16. Selling and merchandising work
___ 17. Managerial work
___ 18. Teaching

18. Is what you are now **primarily** doing on the same career path you planned in high school? (Check one)

___ 1. Yes
___ 2. No ... If no, why not? _____

_____

_____

19. What is the single most serious personal problem that you have met since graduation? (Check one)

___ 1. Unable to find any significant activities where my creativity can be expressed
___ 2. Unable to find any friends or companions who stimulate me intellectually
___ 3. Lacked the stamina to deal with the stigma or pressure of being intellectually or creatively superior
___ 4. My immediate family's expectations for me are too high
___ 5. I am worried that I will not be as successful as people (family, friends and/or past/present educators) want me to be
___ 6. I impose too much pressure on myself to succeed
___ 7. I do not want to be intellectually or creatively superior
___ 8. Other: (Please specify) _____

20. If presently in a training program, school or college, what is the single most serious educational problem that you have met since graduation? (Check one)

___ 1. Lacked the necessary educational skills
___ 2. Money problems
___ 3. Prejudice and/or discrimination (e.g., sex, race, age, etc.)
___ 4. Unable to establish goals
___ 5. Unable to establish a plan
___ 6. Unable to follow plans to accomplish goals
___ 7. Disappointed with choice of school or educational program
___ 8. Other: (Please specify) _____
___ 9. No educational problem

21. What course or courses of study did you follow while at the CAS and indicate the number of years you pursued each? (Check as many as apply and indicate the number of years for each.)

		Number of Years
___	1. Visual arts	_____
___	2. Dance	_____
___	3. Global studies	_____
___	4. Language arts	_____
___	5. Mathematics/science	_____
___	6. Instrumental music	_____
___	7. Voice/keyboard	_____
___	8. Theatre	_____

22. While in the CAS program did your course of study change? (For example: You entered the program in math/science and later changed to instrumental music.) (Check one)

___ 1. Yes
___ 2. No (If no, skip questions 23 and 24)

23. Which response best describes why you changed your course of study? (Check one)

___ 1. Classes were too difficult
___ 2. Classes were boring
___ 3. Didn't particularly like the teachers
___ 4. At first I liked the course of study and later did not
___ 5. If I followed my initial course of study I would not earn the amount of money desired
___ 6. I knew no one else who was following my course of study
___ 7. The grades I received in the first few courses were not as good as I wanted them to be
___ 8. The initial course of study conflicted with the home school's schedule
___ 9. Other: (Please specify) _____

24. Did someone in the CAS program encourage or recommend that you change your course of study? (Check one)

___ 1. Yes
___ 2. No (If no, skip questions 25 and 26)

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25. Check the one person who most encouraged or recommended the change:

___ 1. Administrator at the home school
___ 2. Administrator at CAS
___ 3. Counselor at the home school
___ 4. Counselor at CAS
___ 5. Teacher at the home school
___ 6. Teacher at CAS
___ 7. A classmate at the home school
___ 8. A classmate at CAS
___ 9. Parent/guardian
___ 10. Another person not in the school
___ 11. Other: (Please specify) _____

26. If you changed your course of study were you satisfied with the change? (Check one)

___ 1. Yes
___ 2. No ... Briefly explain why not. _____
_____
_____

27. How would you best describe your **present** involvement in any social, service, professional, or civic activities? (Check one)

___ 1. I am involved in many activities
___ 2. I am involved in a fair amount (over 2) of activities
___ 3. My activities are few (1 or 2) in number
___ 4. I am not involved in any activities

28. While in the CAS program how would you describe your participation in out-of-school activities either at the CAS and/or at your home school? (Check one)

___ 1. I was involved in a large number of activities (5 or more)*
___ 2. I was involved in some activities (3 or 4)*
___ 3. I was involved in basically 1 or 2 activities*
___ 4. I was not involved in any out-of-school activities**

*If you answered 1, 2, or 3, please skip question 29.
**If you checked 4, please answer question 29.

29. Which answer best describes why you were **not** involved in any out-of-school activities? (Check one)

___ 1. My academic schedule did not permit me to spend time with out-of-school activities
___ 2. At the time no out-of-school activities were of interest to me
___ 3. I had responsibilities at home which came first
___ 4. I had a part-time job
___ 5. My parents did not permit me to get involved in any out-of-school activities
___ 6. No one encouraged or recommended that I become involved in any out-of-school activities
___ 7. I never really thought about getting involved
___ 8. Other: (Please explain) _____

_____

_____

30. Did you have a mentor, a person who guided you, or took a personal interest in you while you were in the CAS program? (Check one)

___ 1. Yes ... If yes, how many? _____
___ 2. No

31. Which of the following individuals was this mentor? (Check all that apply)

___ 1. A CAS building administrator
___ 2. Counselor
___ 3. Teacher
___ 4. A student who was in the program before me
___ 5. A student who was in the program during the same time as I
___ 6. Other: Who? _____

32. Does this mentor still provide encouragement and guidance in your present endeavor(s)? (Check one)

___ 1. Yes
___ 2. No

33. Please list three or more major strengths of the CAS program.

1. _____
_____
2. _____
_____
3. _____
_____

34. Please list three or more ways the CAS program could be improved. Be specific!

1. _____
_____
2. _____
_____
3. _____
_____

35. Briefly specify what you plan to be doing professionally in ten years.

_____
_____
_____

36. We do want to stay in contact with you and all your classmates from the CAS. Please provide us with a name and address of someone who will be able to forward correspondence to you.

_____
_____
_____

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT!

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APPENDIX B

550 Millard Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48607
(517) 759-2200
FAX: (517) 759-2315

Foster B. Gibbs, Ph.D., Superintendent

April 3, 1992

Dear 1991 CAS Graduate:

We're still waiting to hear from you.

Remember that questionnaire from the Saginaw Public Schools you found in your mailbox a few weeks ago that asked you about your experiences during and following graduation? If you haven't gotten around to filling it out, please take a few minutes to do so. If you lost it at the beach, used it for a napkin by mistake, or just forgot where you put it, you're in luck. We've enclosed another one with this letter, along with a stamped pre-addressed envelope.

It's important to keep in mind that all your responses will remain confidential and will be grouped with all other CAS graduates.

One added benefit of returning your questionnaire as quickly as possible is that you won't get another one of these letters.

Your responses are important. They will help us keep the Saginaw Schools up to date. So let us hear what you have to say.

Sincerely,

Foster B. Gibbs
Superintendent of Schools

Enclosure

Board of Education
Thomas S. Tilot, President Michael L. Kiefer, Vice-President James W. Woolfolk, Secretary Richard J. Stringer, Treasurer
Ruth A. Braun, Trustee Ruben Daniels, Trustee, Willie E. Thompson, Trustee

APPENDIX C

A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF 1991 GRADUATES FROM THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES (CAS) (N=14)

1. Which of the following categories best describes what you **primarily** are doing now? (Check one)

		Number	Percent
____	1. In school, college, or a training program full-time	13	92.9
____	2. In school, college, or a training program part-time	1	7.1
____	3. Employed, full-time (30 or more hours per week	0	0.0
____	4. Employed, part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	0	0.0
____	5. In the military service	0	0.0
____	6. Unemployed, seeking employment	0	0.0
____	7. Unemployed, not seeking employment	0	0.0
____	8. Laid off	0	0.0
____	9. Homemaker	0	0.0
____	10. Other: (Please specify) _____		

2. If you are currently attending a school, university, or college please list the name of that institution and any others you have attended plus your major and minor at each one: (If you are **undecided** use UN to indicate **undecided** for major and/or for minor):

Name of Institution		
Current:		
Delta College	2	14.3
Michigan Technological University	2	14.3
Western Michigan University	2	14.3
Northwestern University	1	7.1
Community College of Southern Nevada	1	7.1
SanDiego City College	1	7.1
Saginaw Valley State University	1	7.1
Illinois Wesleyan	1	7.1
Rochester Institute of Technology	1	7.1
Michigan State University	1	7.1
Center for Creative Studies	1	7.1
Previous:	0	0.0

2. (cont.)

Name of Curriculum	Major		Minor	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Art	1	7.1	0	0.0
Biochemistry	1	7.1	0	0.0
Economics	1	7.1	0	0.0
Electrical Engineer	2	14.3	0	0.0
Graphic Art	0	0.0	1	7.1
Business	1	7.1	0	0.0
Dance	0	0.0	1	7.1
Technical Theatre	1	7.1	0	0.0
Engineering Technology	0	0.0	1	7.1
Drama	1	7.1	0	0.0
Music	0	0.0	1	7.1
Painting/Illustration	1	7.1	0	0.0
Graphic Design	0	0.0	1	7.1
Nursing	1	7.1	0	0.0
Journalism	1	7.1	0	0.0
Theatre	1	7.1	0	0.0
Illustration	1	7.1	0	0.0
Minors are not allowed because majors are to difficult	0	0.0	1	7.1
Undecided/no response	1	7.1	8	57.1

Name of Curriculum	Major		Minor	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Previous:	0	0.0	0	0.0

3. If you are not attending a school, university, or college now but you have attended since graduation, what is the name of the institution(s)?

Name of Institution	Major		Minor	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1.	0	0.0	0	0.0
2.	0	0.0	0	0.0

4. If you are currently attending a school, university, or college that awards a degree, towards what degree are you working? (Check one)

___	1. Associate of Arts (A.A.)	3	21.4
___	2. Bachelor of Science (B.S.)	3	21.4
___	3. Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	8	57.1
___	4. Other: (Please specify) _____		

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APPENDIX C

		Number	Percent
5.	What major field of study are you pursuing? (Check one)		
____	1. Business	2	14.3
____	2. Commercial Arts and Communication	3	21.4
____	3. Construction, Industrial, and Skill Trades	0	0.0
____	4. Education	0	0.0
____	5. Engineering and Architecture	3	21.4
____	6. Fine Arts and Letters	3	21.4
____	7. Law and Government	1	7.1
____	8. Medicine and Health Services	1	7.1
____	9. Science and Agriculture	1	7.1
____	10. Social Services	0	0.0
____	11. Transportation	0	0.0
____	12. Other: (Please specify)	0	0.0
6.	If you have identified a field of study, how long have you been studying in this area? (Check one)		
____	1. Less than one year	10	71.4
____	2. One to two years	1	7.1
____	3. Two to three years	1	7.1
____	4. Six years	2	14.3
7.	Do you plan to pursue an additional degree after you complete your present program? (Check one)		
____	1. Yes	10	71.4
____	2. No (Please skip questions eight and nine)	0	0.0
____	3. I don't know at this time. (Please skip questions eight and nine)	4	28.6
8.	If you checked yes to question 7, what degree do you <u>ultimately</u> wish to attain? (Check one)		
____	1. Bachelor of Arts of Science (B.A. or B.S.)	1	10.0
____	2. Master of Arts or Science (M.A. or M.S.)	5	50.0
____	3. Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)	2	20.0
____	4. Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)	1	10.0
____	5. Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)	0	0.0
____	6. Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.)	1	10.0
____	7. Juris Doctor (J.D.)	0	0.0
____	8. Doctor of Philosophy or Education Doctor (Ph.D. or Ed.D.)	0	0.0
____	9. Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)	0	0.0
____	10. Other: (Please specify)	0	0.0
9.	If you checked yes to question 7, what major area of study will you pursue? (Please specify)		
	• Photography	1	10.0
	• Biochemistry/genetics	1	10.0
	• Economics/finance	1	10.0
	• Engineering	1	10.0
	• Dance	1	10.0
	• Law/Civil rights	1	10.0
	• Architecture and technical design	1	10.0
	• Computer imaging sciences/American sign language interpreting	1	10.0
	• Pediatric nursing	1	10.0
	• Illustration and teaching art history	1	10.0

APPENDIX C

	Number	Percent

If you are attending a training program or pursuing additional education from an institution that does not issue a degree please answer questions 10-13, otherwise go to question 14.

10. What is your area of study? (Please specify)

1.	0	0.0
2.	0	0.0

11. How long have you been in this program?

1.	0	0.0
2.	0	0.0

12. Do you plan on entering a university or college after this program? (Check one)

____	1. Yes	0	0.0
____	2. No (Please skip question 13)	0	0.0
____	3. I don't know at this time (Please skip question 13)		

13. If you answered yes to question 12, what major area of study will you pursue? (Please specify)

1.	0	0.0
2.	0	0.0

14. What type of job would you like to secure when you finish studying and/or graduate? (Check one)

____	1. Caring for people or animals	0	0.0
____	2. Musical and entertainment activities	3	21.4
____	3. Artistic work	3	21.4
____	4. Communications work	2	14.3
____	5. Promotional activities	0	0.0
____	6. Number work	0	0.0
____	7. Inspecting and measuring	0	0.0
____	8. Clerical work	0	0.0
____	9. Manual work	1	7.1
____	10. Machine work	0	0.0
____	11. Craftsmanship	0	0.0
____	12. Skilled operation, repair, or installation of precision equipment	1	7.1
____	13. Serving personal needs of people	0	0.0
____	14. Providing skilled services for people	1	7.1
____	15. Waiting on customers	0	0.0
____	16. Selling and merchandising work	0	0.0
____	17. Managerial work	1	7.1
____	18. Teaching	0	0.0
____	19. Scientific research	1	7.1
____	20. Research and design	1	7.1

15. If you are currently employed, are you in the same general area you planned while in the CAS program? (Check one)

____	1. Yes ... If yes, answer questions 16, 17, and 18	4	28.6
____	2. No ... If no, please skip questions 16, 17, and 18	10	71.4

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		Number	Percent
16.	Are you employed currently full-time (30 or more hours per week) and/or part-time (less than 30 hours per week)? (Check one)		
___	1. Full-time	2	50.0
___	2. Part-time	2	50.0
___	3. Both Full- and Part-time	0	0.0
17.	If you are currently employed, what is your current job category? (Check one)		
___	1. Caring for people or animals	0	0.0
___	2. Musical and entertainment activities	0	0.0
___	3. Artistic work	0	0.0
___	4. Communications work	0	0.0
___	5. Promotional activities	1	25.0
___	6. Number work	0	0.0
___	7. Inspecting and measuring	0	0.0
___	8. Clerical work	0	0.0
___	9. Manual work	0	0.0
___	10. Machine work	0	0.0
___	11. Craftsmanship	0	0.0
___	12. Skilled operation, repair, or installation of precision equipment	0	0.0
___	13. Serving personal needs of people	0	0.0
___	14. Providing skilled services for people	1	25.0
___	15. Waiting on customers	0	0.0
___	16. Selling and merchandising work	1	25.0
___	17. Managerial work	0	0.0
___	18. Teaching	0	0.0
___	19. Research and design	1	25.0
18.	Is what you are now **primarily** doing on the same career path you planned in high school? (Check one)		
___	1. Yes	3	75.0
___	2. No ... If no, why not?		
	o I teach ballroom dancing and in school I wanted to be a lawyer	1	25.0
19.	What is the single most serious personal problem that you have met since graduation? (Check one)		
___	1. Unable to find any significant activities where my creativity can be expressed	0	0.0
___	2. Unable to find any friends or companions who stimulate me intellectually	1	7.1
___	3. Lacked the stamina to deal with the stigma or pressure of being intellectually or creatively superior	0	0.0
___	4. My immediate family's expectations for me are too high	0	0.0
___	5. I am worried that I will not be as successful as people (family, friends and/or past/ present educators) want me to be	3	21.4
___	6. I impose too much pressure on myself to succeed	4	28.6
___	7. I do not want to be intellectually or creatively superior	0	0.0
___	8. Other: (Please specify)		
	• Can't find a job to help pay for school/financial obligations	2	14.3
	• Lymes disease	1	7.1
	• Handling stress	1	7.1
	• Not worried	2	14.3

		Number	Percent
20.	If presently in a training program, school or college, what is the single most serious educational problem that you have met since graduation? (Check one)		
___	1. Lacked the necessary educational skills	1	7.1
___	2. Money problems	6	42.9
___	3. Prejudice and/or discrimination (e.g., sex, race, age, etc.)	0	0.0
___	4. Unable to establish goals	0	0.0
___	5. Unable to establish a plan	0	0.0
___	6. Unable to follow plans to accomplish goals	0	0.0
___	7. Disappointed with choice of school or educational program	0	0.0
___	8. Other: (Please specify)	0	0.0
	• Putting too much pressure on myself to succeed	1	7.1
	• Unsure if I want to pursue my major or change it	1	7.1
___	9. No educational problem	5	35.7

21. What course or courses of study did you follow while at the CAS and indicate the number of years you pursued each? (Check as many as apply and indicate the number of years for each.)

		Average Number of Years		
___	1. Visual arts	4.2	5	33.3
___	2. Dance	3.5	2	13.3
___	3. Global studies	0.0	0	0.0
___	4. Language arts	1.5	2	13.3
___	5. Mathematics/science	6.0	3	20.0
___	6. Instrumental music	0.0	0	0.0
___	7. Voice/keyboard	0.0	0	0.0
___	8. Theatre	4.7	3	20.0

22. While in the CAS program did your course of study change? (For example: You entered the program in math/science and later changed to instrumental music.) (Check one)

___	1. Yes	1	7.1
___	2. No (If no, skip questions 23 and 24)	13	92.9

23. Which response best describes why you changed your course of study? (Check one)

___	1. Classes were too difficult	0	0.0
___	2. Classes were boring	0	0.0
___	3. Didn't particularly like the teachers	0	0.0
___	4. At first I liked the course of study and later did not	0	0.0
___	5. If I followed my initial course of study I would not earn the amount of money desired	0	0.0
___	6. I knew no one else who was following my course of study	0	0.0
___	7. The grades I received in the first few courses were not as good as I wanted them to be	0	0.0
___	8. The initial course of study conflicted with the home school's schedule	0	0.0
___	9. Other: (Please specify)		
	• I wanted to be well rounded	1	100.0

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		Number	Percent
24.	Did someone in the CAS program encourage or recommend that you change your course of study? (Check one)		
____	1. Yes	1	100.0
____	2. No (If no, skip questions 25 and 26)	0	0.0
25.	Check the one person who most encouraged or recommended the change:		
____	1. Administrator at the home school	0	0.0
____	2. Administrator at CAS	0	0.0
____	3. Counselor at the home school	0	0.0
____	4. Counselor at CAS	0	0.0
____	5. Teacher at the home school	0	0.0
____	6. Teacher at CAS	0	0.0
____	7. A classmate at the home school	0	0.0
____	8. A classmate at CAS	0	0.0
____	9. Parent/guardian	0	0.0
____	10. Another person not in the school	0	0.0
____	11. Other: (Please specify)	0	0.0
	• Many of the above	1	100.0
26.	If you changed your course of study were you satisfied with the change? (Check one)		
____	1. Yes	1	100.0
____	2. No ... Briefly explain why not.	0	0.0
27.	How would you best describe your **present** involvement in any social, service, professional, or civic activities? (Check one)		
____	1. I am involved in many activities	1	7.1
____	2. I am involved in a fair amount (over 2) of activities	3	21.4
____	3. My activities are few (1 or 2) in number	7	50.0
____	4. I am not involved in any activities	3	21.4
28.	While in the CAS program how would you describe your participation in out-of-school activities either at the CAS and/or at your home school? (Check one)		
____	1. I was involved in a large number of activities (5 or more)*	5	35.7
____	2. I was involved in some activities (3 or 4)*	6	42.9
____	3. I was involved in basically 1 or 2 activities*	3	21.4
____	4. I was not involved in any out-of-school activities**	0	0.0

*If you answered 1, 2, or 3, please skip question 29.
**If you checked 4, please answer question 29.

33
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		Number	Percent
29.	Which answer best describes why you were not involved in any out-of-school activities? (Check one)		
___ 1.	My academic schedule did not permit me to spend time with out-of-school activities	0	0.0
___ 2.	At the time no out-of-school activities were of interest to me	0	0.0
___ 3.	I had responsibilities at home which came first	0	0.0
___ 4.	I had a part-time job	0	0.0
___ 5.	My parents did not permit me to get involved in any out-of-school activities	0	0.0
___ 6.	No one encouraged or recommended that I become involved in any out-of-school activities	0	0.0
___ 7.	I never really thought about getting involved	0	0.0
___ 8.	Other: (Please explain)	0	0.0
30.	Did you have a mentor, a person who guided you, or took a personal interest in you while you were in the CAS program? (Check one)		
___ 1.	Yes ... If yes, how many? _____	13	92.9
	1	5	38.5
	2	3	23.1
	3	4	30.8
	4	1	7.7
___ 2.	No	1	7.7
31.	Which of the following individuals was this mentor? (Check all that apply)		
___ 1.	A CAS building administrator	1	5.9
___ 2.	Counselor	1	5.9
___ 3.	Teacher	12	70.6
___ 4.	A student who was in the program before me	1	5.9
___ 5.	A student who was in the program during the same time as I	2	11.8
___ 6.	Other: Who?	0	0.0
32.	Does this mentor still provide encouragement and guidance in your present endeavor(s)? (Check one)		
___ 1.	Yes	10	76.9
___ 2.	No	3	23.1

APPENDIX C

	Number
33. Please list three or more major strengths of the CAS program.	
• Provides a concentrated environment in which students can expand their specialized talents/ encourages creativity	9
• Materials and everything needed was available at your finger tips/hands on experiences	4
• Advanced courses of study/specialized areas of study	4
• Teachers are more interested in their students and teaching than teachers who see their profession as "just a job"	4
• The "National Issues Journals/Forum" were very educational and informative	3
• Helped to prepare intelligent students for college	2
• You can get more accomplished because you are allowed more time in each area	2
• Gives opportunity to kids that they wouldn't receive in the public or private schools	2
• Rewards students who take an interest in going above and beyond high school education	1
• Friends made there will last a lifetime	1
• Language arts allowed the students to talk and share future concerns and questions about their goals	1
• It let me establish and explore many aspects of theatre	1
• You get to know a lot of people very well and share their accomplishments	1
• The wide range of variety in the studio classes	1
• Art history and background research	1
• The additional programs, scholarships and career help that the staff and administrators provide	1
• Gives encouragement for beginners in art	1

APPENDIX C

34. Please list three or more ways the CAS program could be improved. Be specific!

	Number
• Have different classes interact with each other	5
• Administrators treated students like children rather than giving them the respect they deserved for being accepted to a gifted program (hall pass policy, eating and drinking in class, etc.)	3
• Better equipment to allow for more hands on experience with tools being used in your field of study	2
• Harder admission standards	2
• Administrators were to harsh with punishment	2
• Advertise better to smaller country schools (Merrill, Hemlock, etc.) to let more people know about the program	2
• Bring more interesting topics to the living arts program	2
• Get more students input to help chose and schedule living arts programs and guest speakers	2
• Administrators only took an interest in a student if he/she were getting awards or were in the public eye	1
• CAS was very unwilling to let student athletes out early for sports practices, therefore punishing them for being active and involved	1
• Better transportation	1
• Teacher evaluation- students should be able to say whether or not a teacher is being fair	1
• One week per semester let students experience what it is like to be involved in a different field of study	1
• Get substitutes that have some knowledge of the class	1
• Mr. Birdsall and administrators should attend school functions	1
• Have more still life work and sketching practice to help later in classes	1
• Rendering of all types with pencil, paint and markers	1
• Technical drawing skills/perspective and detail work	1
• Gear more toward skill and practical work rather than freelance	1
• Offer a scholarship to the most improved or diligent students who have been there 6 years	1
• A forum that requires all classes to spend some amount of time on Student National Issues Forum in the class room	1
• Inflict harsher penalties on students who repeatedly disrupt classroom productivity	1
• No comment	1

35. Briefly specify what you plan to be doing professionally in ten years.

	Number
• A famous fashion photographer in New York	1
• Research and development for a company involved in genetic engineering, having achieved at least a masters degree if not a doctorate in genetics	1
• Plan to be a budget director for either a large corporation or private university and I also plan to have my MBA or be a CEO someday	1
• Electrical engineer	1
• Plan to be running my own professional dance company. I would be the teacher and choreographer or touring all over the country	1
• Practicing law and teaching ballroom dance	1
• Either be an architect with a building company or a light designer with a musical group	1
• Either acting or designing professionally for a theatre	1
• Working as an advertising or commercial illustrator/designer	1
• I plan on definitely having my bachelor's degree in nursing. I may have my masters by then. I want to be well situated on a hospital staff here or somewhere else like Lansing treating sick children and infants	1
• Plan on being in broadcasting or public relations	1
• Professional illustrator in a corporation form or freelance illustrator/writer	1
• Involved in research and design	1
• I don't know	1